

Appl. No. 09/720,353
Amdt. dated September 22, 2006
Reply to Office Action of July 24, 2006

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REMARKS

Claims 2-17 are pending and were examined. Claims 2-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs. Amendments to claims 9 and 11 are proposed above. Entry of the proposed amendments pursuant to Rule 116(b) is requested because the amendments merely address issues raised under 35 U.S.C. §112 and because previously asserted rejections based on prior art have been withdrawn. Therefore, the amendments place the claims in better condition for appeal and do not raise any new issues of patentability.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph:

The Examiner rejects claims 2-8 and 12-17 and claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Regarding claim 11, the Examiner states that "it is not clear how two essentially equivalent signature are created with use of nonequivalent variables," the Examiner noting that the claim states that a signature is created using a key and sequence number, but that signature is checked with a second, calculated signature that is derived using a key without a sequence number.

In response, the amendment to claim 11 makes clear that the signature generator and the signature checker employ equivalent variables, a key and a sequence number, to generate and verify, respectively, a signature.

Regarding claim 9, the Examiner states that an essential element appears to be missing from that claim, apparently referring to the fact that as a result of the previous amendment to claim 9, the claim states that the signature checker (part of the receiver) receives an input from the a one-time encrypter earlier recited as part of the control center.

The present amendment to claim 9 specifies that the signature checker receives in input from a second one-time encrypter that is part of the receiver rather than part of the previously recited control center. Support for this amendment is found in Fig.1 (and in the text pertaining thereto), which discloses two one-time encrypters 13 and 13', one of which is part of control center 10, the other part of receiver 30.

For the reasons stated above, the grounds of rejection of claims 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and claims 2-8 and 12-17 depending therefrom, have now been rendered moot. Accordingly, the Applicant requests that the Examiner's rejections of claims 2-9 and 11-17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

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Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph:

The Examiner rejects claims 2-9 and 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner alleges that the previously entered amendment to claim 9 is unclear regarding the connection indicated by the "whose input" phrase following the recitation of the signature checker. In addition, the Examiner asserts that the claim appears to be self-contradictory regarding the claim limitation that the control center, sender and receiver are all separate from each other. The Applicant respectfully asserts that the proposed amendment addresses both of these issues by clarifying the inputs to the second one-time encrypter, that the second one-time encrypter is in the receiver, and that the signature checker receives an output from the second one-time encrypter. The amendment thus clarifies the relationship between the one-time encrypters, the control center and the signature checker.

In addition, the language that the Examiner cited as needing simplification has been simplified.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter the proposed amendments to Claims 9 and 11 and to reexamine and reconsider the allowability of claims 2-9 and 11-17.

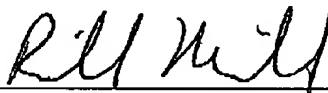
If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Based on the foregoing and for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims of the application in question are in condition for allowance and an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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No fee is believed due with the filing of this Amendment. However, if a fee is due, Applicant authorizes the payment of any additional charges that may be necessary to maintain the pendency of the present application to the undersigned attorney's Deposit Account No. 503342.

Respectfully submitted,

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